



**Congregational Christian Church**  
**The Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley**  
 (Evangelical, Independent)

**207 W. Roosevelt Road, PO Box 370**  
**Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084-0370**  
**Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns**  
**Associate Pastor David Bogner**

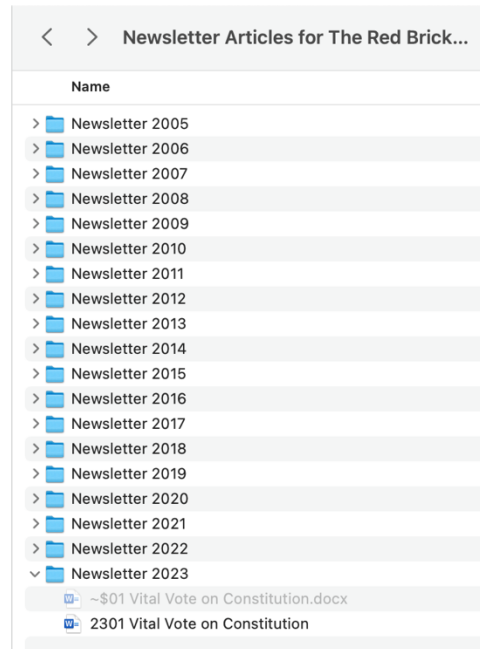
**JANUARY 2023**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
CHURCH PHONE  
**645-2526**  
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS  
 cccoffice1@comcast.net

*On January 22, 2023, our church will vote on constitution revisions. You can see the proposed revisions online. Jana will also make copies available at church. **Please vote by absentee ballot if you cannot attend.***

\* \* \* \* \*

I began as fulltime interim pastor of the Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley in January of 2005. It's turned out to be a long interim pastorate.

Throughout my time at our church, I have written a newsletter article nearly every month. My articles are all on my hard drive – the image of the file organization is a screenshot of how many years I have been writing the articles.



Each month, I ask myself, “What does our church family need to consider this month? What is the most strategic thing to be said?”

I’m not sure that anything I’ve said across the years is more important than this month’s reminder to participate by vote in the annual meeting.

By all means – if you have questions about the constitution revisions – ask Pastor David or me, or a deacon as soon as possible. Once we get to the annual meeting we will essentially just vote “yes” or “no.”

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Our constitution requires a very high threshold of agreement with the changes and participation. **This means that if you cannot attend, we pray you will vote by way of absentee ballot.**

Be assured -- our doctrine is not changing, nor is our basic governance. We will still be “congregational,” meaning our congregation will still have final earthly say in decisions.

Also -- recall that we have worked on this process across years! We presented a draft of the changes at the Annual meeting last year and have received input all year long. There has been lots of opportunity for input -- and much input has been received.

I am so thankful to be your pastor and so thankful for this progress.

## CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Clayton Midtsem.....262-4254  
Deaconess Board – Susan Stukenberg .. 997-7095  
Trustee Board – Mike Haugse.....262-1844  
CE Committee – Cara Roberts.. 217-621-2460  
Memorial Com. – Jeff McLindsay .....440-2042  
Mission Com. – Clayton Midtsem.....262-4254  
Music – Lance Mennen .....985-2484

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 31, 2022

At the time of publication for the January 2023 newsletter, the year-end financials were not finalized. As soon as we have everything completed, we will edit this page in the newsletter on our website.

## Ladies Bible Studies

Our Ladies Bible Studies (both Women of the Word and Mom's and More) will be starting a Winter/Spring Bible study very soon! Be sure to go to The Red Brick Church facebook page for registration forms for both studies.



**Ladies Bible Studies**

**Tuesday Evenings**  
6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Brick Center.  
Starts January 17, 2023

**Friday Mornings**  
9:00 to 10:30 am in the Brick Center.  
Childcare provided.  
Starts January 20, 2023

**Registration Forms**  
can be found on our church  
facebook page.



**HOMEMADE SOUP DINNER**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023 | 5:00 PM  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING  
IN THE BRICK CENTER  
HOSTED BY THE DEACONESS BOARD  
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP!



**Ladies Salad Luncheon**

SATURDAY, January 28th at Noon  
in the Brick Center.

**Please bring a salad to share.**  
Muffins, breads, desserts and beverages will be provided.

Guest Speaker Mrs. Katie McKenna will  
share "This Stuff is Really Good".

*All ladies are invited! We hope you can join us!*



- Jan. 4 - Wren Hickey
- Jan. 5 - Michael Cox
- Jan. 6 - Eliza Anderson
- Jan. 7 - Zeke Janoski
- Jan. 9 - Jackie Schumacher
- Jan. 12 - Grady McCoy
- Jan. 14 - Gary Rhodes
- Jan. 18 - Eric Long, Bristol Glendenning
- Jan. 20 - Anneliese Haak, Keaton Griffin
- Jan. 21 - Rhett Brass
- Jan. 22 - Patsy Hoernecke
- Jan. 25 - Judy Foster
- Jan. 27 - Gwen Baker, Hope Wallin,  
Liam MacDonald
- Jan. 28 - Tina Garnhart
- Jan. 30 - Landon Haak
- Jan. 31 - Anna Forcier
- Feb. 1 - Shannon and Grace Hickey
- Feb. 5 - Renley Svartoi



- Jan. 24 - Grady and Millie McCoy
- Feb. 1 - Brad and Tessa Baker



## FROM PASTOR DAVID

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12*

### Commit to reading the Bible in 2023

Do you know the joy of placing a checkmark next to the December 31 entry on your Bible reading plan? The final mark represents a year-long journey through the living, breathing Word of God. Just as bread nourishes our bodies, Scripture nourishes our souls. And the joy of Bible reading isn't reserved for the end. We need to hear from God in an ongoing way. A good Bible reading plan gives us a guide.

Whether you have read through the Bible dozens of times over the years or look forward to reading cover to cover for the first time in your life, ask God to give you a deeper desire to read his word with purpose and intentionality in 2023. Consider, as I am for 2023, shaking up the reading plan.

For many years, I have benefited from following the Ligonier reading plan. It moves you steadily through the Old and New Testaments with daily readings from each. In 2023, I plan to follow the Robert Murray M'Cheyne Bible Reading Plan. It takes you through the New Testament and Psalms twice during the year and the rest of the Old Testament once.

Find Bible reading plans, descriptions, and links to them all in one document.

[bit.ly/brick-reading-plans](https://bit.ly/brick-reading-plans) or use the QR code:



Reports from all boards and committees are needed in the church office no later than Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Chairmen of all boards and committees should check with each respective secretary to be sure if the chairman or secretary is to write the report this year. Again, please be sure that all reports are in the church office by the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Our annual meeting this year will be on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 pm** in the church sanctuary. Reports for the annual meeting will be available in the back of the church on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> for all active members and non-members. Please bring your report with you back to the meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Extra copies will not be available at the meeting.

Please be sure and review each report prepared by all committees and boards prior to the annual meeting. We will not be going through each report individually, but will open up the meeting by addressing any questions and concerns from the congregation in regard to these reports. After all questions have been answered we will vote to approve the reports as a package.

As members of a congregational church, we have both a responsibility and privilege to come and have a voice and vote in deciding issues our church faces for the upcoming year.

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**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**  
**4:00 pm**

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**REPORTS DUE FROM BOARDS:**  
**Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00**  
**am**

# **Awana®** JANUARY 2023 THEME NIGHTS

## **Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

This will be our first M & M Night of 2023. Please bring your missionary banks to club.

## **Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**

It is "Baby Night" at club and we will also be collecting donations for the Pregnancy Care Center in Rockford.

## **Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**

Today is our first AWANA Derby Car Cut-Out Clinic in the church fellowship hall from 9:00 – 11:00 am. Bring your design and car to the clinic and one of our pit crew members will help you cut out your car to match your design!

## **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Today is our last AWANA Derby Car Cut-Out Clinic in the church fellowship hall from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Bring your design and car to the clinic and one of our pit crew members will help you cut out your car to match your design!

## **Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

Tonight is one of our club's favorites: "Pajama Night". Come to club in your PJ's tonight!

## **CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

PO Box 370

Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**\*\* RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED \*\***



## CHURCH

# *Constitution Revisions*

**VOTE at ANNUAL MEETING**  
**January 22, 2023 at 4:00 pm**

*Please contact the church office for an  
absentee ballot if unable to be at  
Annual Meeting.*

**Copies of the Constitution Revisions can be  
found in the church office.**

